

Hello FCC commissioners; I am opposed to changing the FCC rules in such a way as to allow for or encourage any further media ownership consolidation. Indeed it is my belief that consolidations encouraged by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 should if possible be reversed. I believe that our mass media have suffered a significant decrease in their ability to provide quality relevant programming as a result of these consolidations. This is the case, I believe, because the natural result of these consolidations is for resulting units to seek to serve the greatest least common denominator markets to the neglect of the very important, crucially important "niche" markets, which include those who usually are more educated and thoughtful, in fact those who provide genuine leadership and direction to our society. The largest demographic markets tend to be most interested in mere escapist, easier to absorb media fare. As a result of these consolidations the educated niche markets increasingly are unable to obtain radio or television air time. This is very unfortunate and should be reversed, not encouraged. Further, media consolidation makes the pursuit of truth and knowledge through the availability of diverse decision making, agenda setting economically independent owners, much more difficult if not impossible. As a result, the American people have a statistically reduced chance of obtaining the news and perspectives that need to be seen and heard if our electorate is to make the crucial decisions which will ensure our Republic's health into this new century and millenium.